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A Day of Prayer for Cessation of the War.

The day set apart by the President of the United States for prayer for peace in Europe has been in certain respects most remarkable. In every quarter of the land the religious communities earnestly supported the President's appeal. When the fourth of October came the churches, almost without exception, in the great cities and the small, united in devout supplication to the Almighty Ruler of the world to grant to the warring nations such change of disposition toward each other as would speedily put an end to the slaughter and devastation which

has been taking place in Europe. Tens of thousands of preachers, inspired by the momentous occasion, set forth with unwonted zeal and eloquence the basic truth of love, goodwill, and universal brotherhood which ought to cement all the peoples and nations into fellowship and solidarity. A great nation of one hundred millions of men and women, united in prayer to God, not for themselves primarily, but for the governments and peoples of Europe, torn and bleeding in the storm of war, was a spectacle unparalleled in the annals of history. Some people scoffed at the idea, still more were indifferent about the subject, but there was the great people, led by its Chief Executive, in a service as supreme as can ever be performed by one nation for another.

What the effect of the day may be, directly, in arresting the war it is useless to try to foretell. The Eternal God reveals but little to us at the moment. But it is safe to say that the work of that day by this great nation was one of the most tremendous moves ever made toward the ending of the present colossal crime of Europe and the final abolition of war itself.

It will, of course, require hereafter the continuation of genuine prayer and faith if the object aimed at is really to be accomplished. But that is just what one of the chief results of the day will be. The pacifists have had far too little to do directly with God and prayer, to say nothing of many ordinary folk. But if the day of prayer, which was proposed by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and by several other organizations, representing altogether many millions of the American people, shall not lose its immense significance, and shall result in a permanent spirit of sympathy and interest on the part of our people toward the great peoples of Europe, indeed toward all people of the earth, the question of the abolition of war will soon be solved and the unity and peace of the world accomplished. The nations of the world have been largely accustomed to treat God as if their citizens alone were His children. God is implored to grant victory to the armies of one belligerent nation, and at the same time is also being implored by every other belligerent nation to grant victory likewise to theirs. What is needed is that all the European nations shall nestle close up to the heart of God as